

Youth Violence Prevention: What's Dueling Got to Do with It?

Subtitle: Evidence that Violence Is Preventable!

Harvard Injury Control and Research Center –Seminar Series
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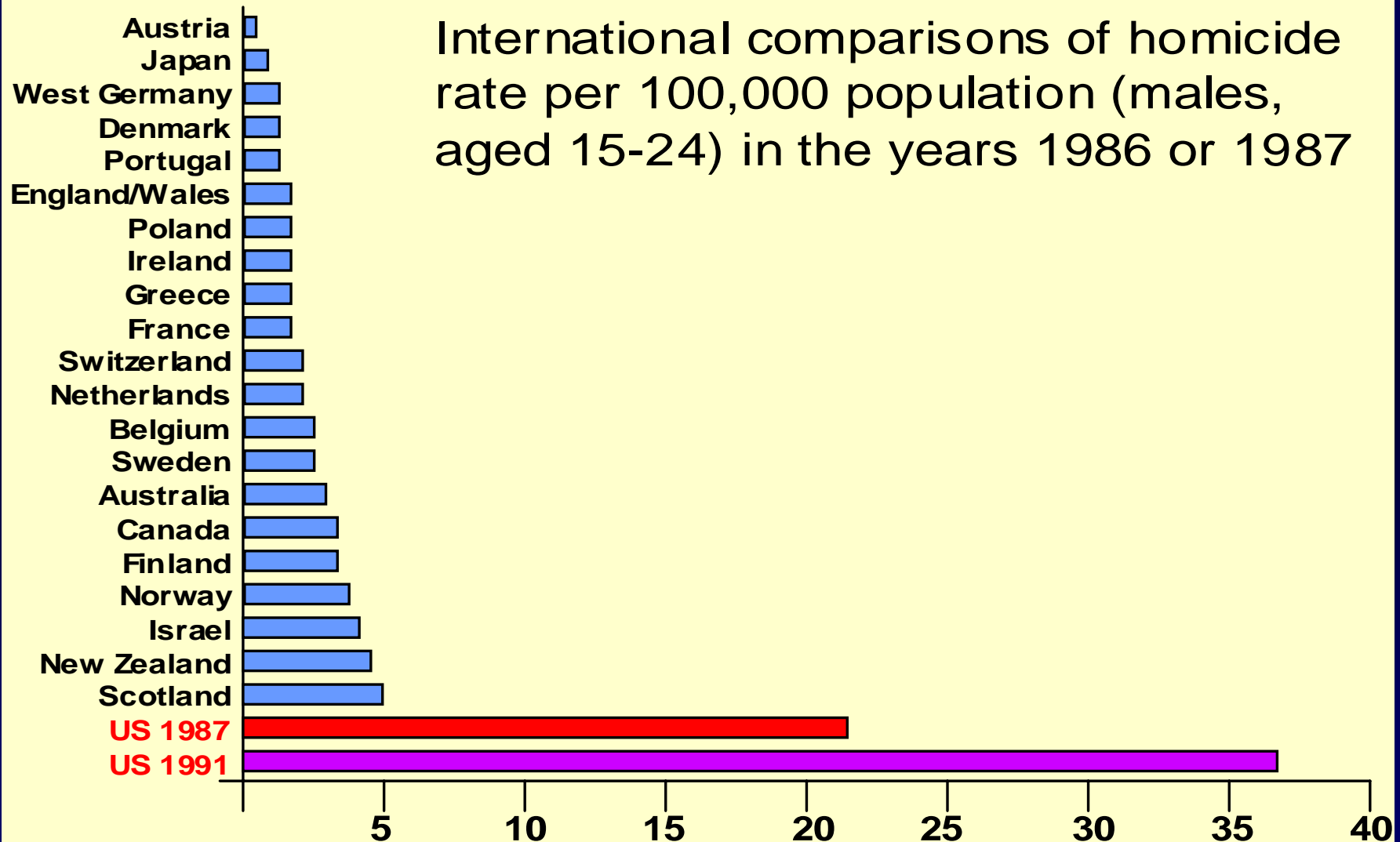
Henry Pickering Walcott Professor of Public Health Practice

Harvard School of Public Health

A Public Health Concern for 23+ Years

- Why interpersonal violence became a public health concern
 - Magnitude of the problem
 - Characteristics of violence
 - Contact health professionals have w/victims and perpetrators
 - Application of public health strategies to understanding and preventing it

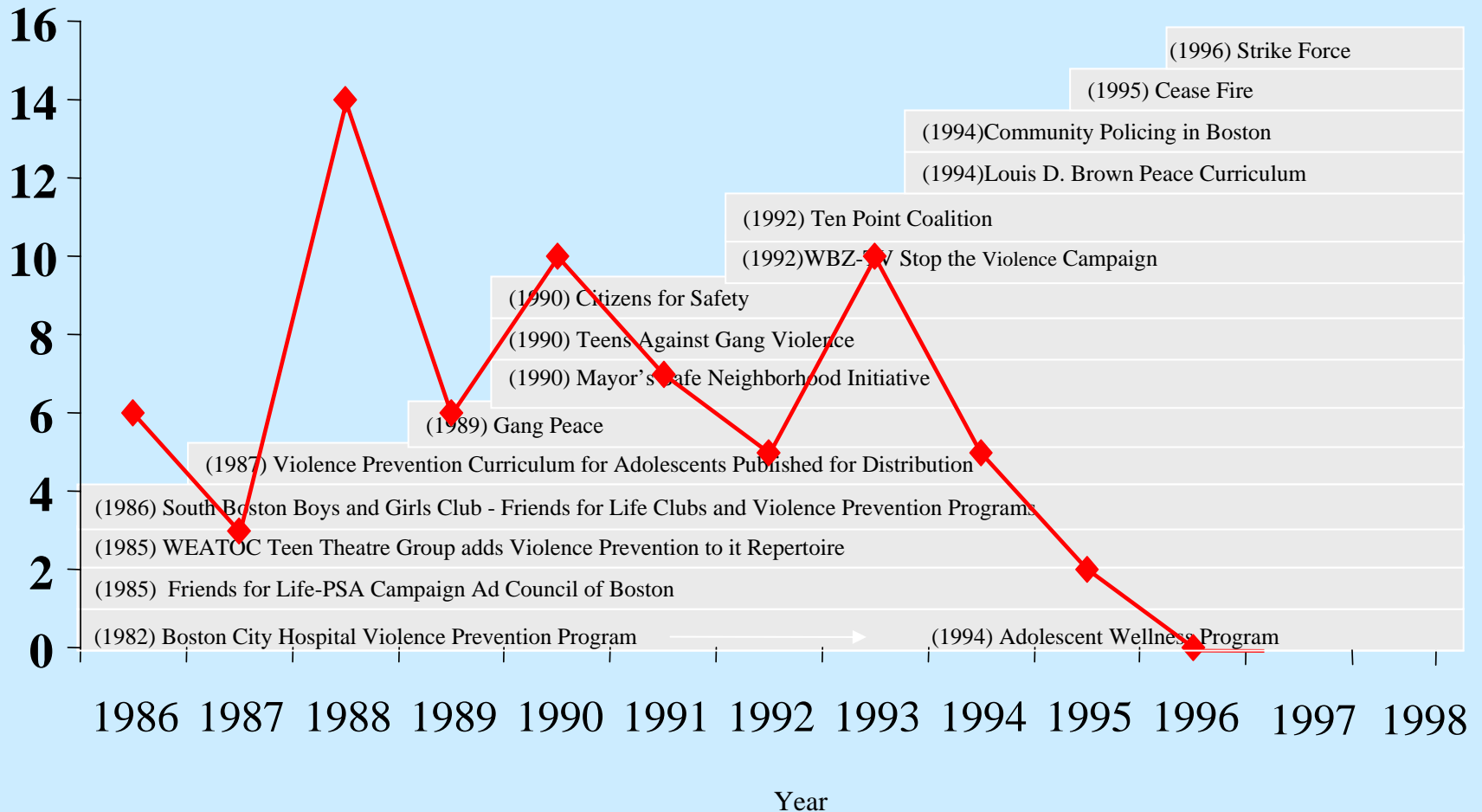
International Homicide Comparisons



Murder Is No Accident: The Boston Violence Prevention Movement

Number of Homicides

Violence Prevention Programs



Source: Boston Police Department

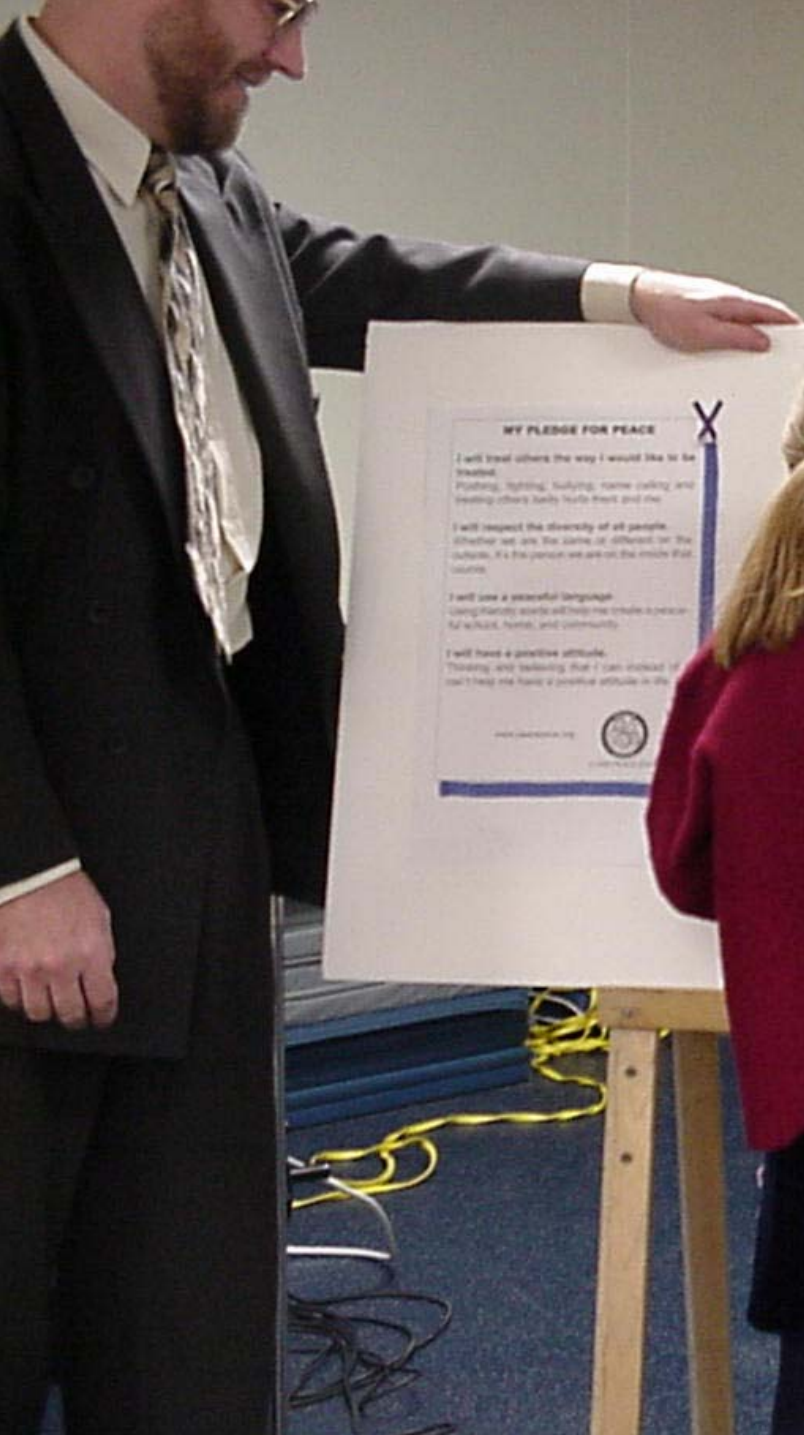
Sugar and Spice and No Longer Nice: The Third Wave

- The first wave – urban poor communities (mostly males)
- The second wave - suburban/rural/small town school violence
- The third wave – girls and young women
- Is there a fourth wave? – younger children and violence

Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests

1990-1999 (OJJDP1999)

	Female	Male
Aggravated Assault	57	- 5
Larceny-theft	6	-24
Simple Assault	93	35
Weapons	44	- 7
Curfew/loitering	139	103
Runaways	-12	-18



MY PLEDGE FOR PEACE

I will treat others the way I would like to be treated.
Pushing, fighting, bullying, name calling and teasing others badly hurts them and me.

I will respect the diversity of all people.
Whether we are the same or different, on the outside, it's the person we are on the inside that counts.

I will use a peaceful language.
Using friendly words will help me make a peaceful school, home, and community.

I will have a positive attitude.
Thinking and believing that I can instead of can't help me have a positive attitude in life.

www.peaceeducation.org



My Pledge for Peace Card

Please begin with me!

PEACE EDUCATION
Peace Education

Class:

There is at least one other on the reverse side.
My School: _____, District: _____,
City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

[Signature]

Date: _____

[Signature]

Date: _____

Teacher/Parent/Community

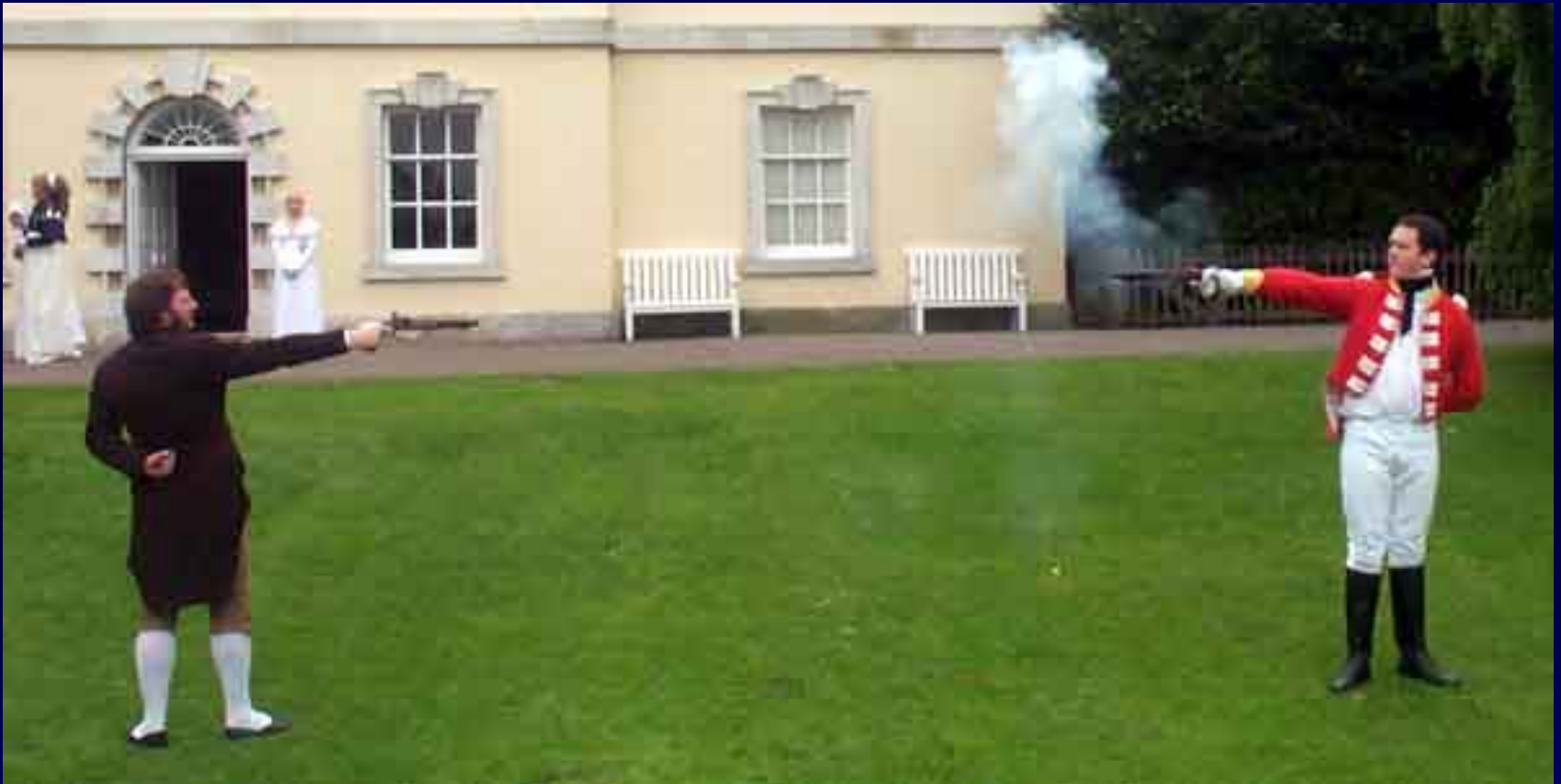
Peace Education



What's Dueling Got to Do with It?

Derrick Cordy,
Dina Johnson,
Sava Amelash
and Deborah Prothrow-Stith

American Dueling



Definitions

- **Dueling:** A prearranged, formal combat fought with weapons between two persons in the presence of witnesses, usually to settle a quarrel or point of honor.
- **Youth Violence:** The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, exerted by or against children, adolescents or young adults, ages 10–29, which results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

Mercy J, Butchart A, Farrington D, Cerdá M. Youth violence. In: Krug E, Dahlberg LL, Mercy JA, et al., editors. The world report on violence and health. Geneva (Switzerland): World Health Organization; 2002. p. 25-56

Dueling Pistols



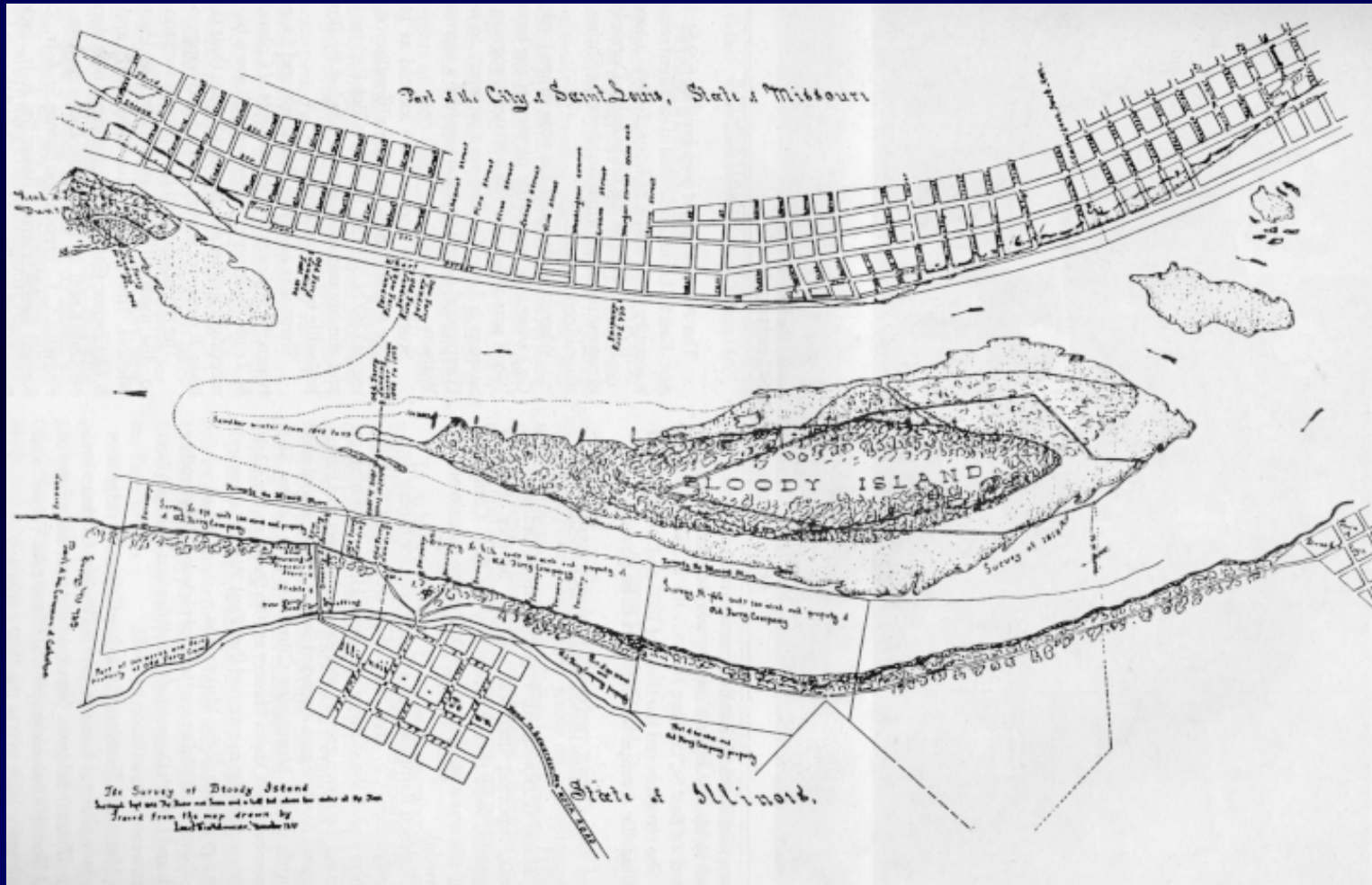
Timeline

- 16th Century – Dueling documented in Europe
- 1620 – First American duel documented and only a handful noted until 1760
- 1640 – Race based ban – no free Mullatoes, Negroes or Indians could own guns
- 1718, 1728 – Duels in Boston - laws passed –punishment - sit in the gallows
- 1775 – 1783 American Revolutionary War
- 1775 – VA –can't hold an office if you duel
- 1778 – Generals in the “new” US army dueled
- 1802 – NC
- 1804 - former Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Vice-President Aaron Burr duel
- 1809 – TN
- 1810 – VA –Anti-dueling Act – made “fighting words’ libel, an offense
- 1815 – Illinois
- 1816 – GA
- 1819 – AL
- 1822 – Miss.
- 1822- SC elected Governor John Lyde Wilson, a dueler and author of the Code
- 1832 – Law in FL – offense to call a man a coward for refusing a duel

Timeline

- 1838 - The Code of Honor, or Rules for the Government of Principals and second in Dueling printed
- 1839 – Miss. Includes attending surgeons in the list of those who can be charged
- 1842 – the only person convicted under NY anti-dueling law - two years and pardoned
- 1844 – GA Supreme Court race-based gun laws are upheld because – not citizens
- 1858 – Miss. Granted amnesty to 15 duelers
- 1860 – CA interpretation of a law indicates that killing in a duel is NOT murder
- 1861 – 1865 – Civil War
- 1866 – Kentucky's last duel
- 1880 –Challenged “gentleman Senator Mahone – simply refused to fight
- 1990 – New Mexico State vs. Romero – last reported case with charges of dueling

Bloody Island



Similarities to Explore

- Gender
- Rules, Totems and Culture
 - Codes of Honor
 - Codes of Silence
 - Role of “Seconds”
- Alternative to the usual process of justice
- Role of Witnesses
- Illegality –multiple approaches
- Employment status
- Precipitating Event - History of disagreement/feud
- Social Norms – Something to prove
 - Valued principles more than his life
 - Valued gang-family more than his life
- Consequences of Not Dueling – refusal proved you were not worthy of loyalty
- Role of the Media

Social Norms to Explore

- Going to Court to defend against libel was a sign of cowardice and weakness – telling the teacher makes you a wimp
- About “small” things
- Anti-violence movement and anti-dueling
- Social norms trumped laws
- Prove a man of honor – prove you are not a wimp
- Need an honorable “out” – football and banned from office/piety (not newly discovered piety)

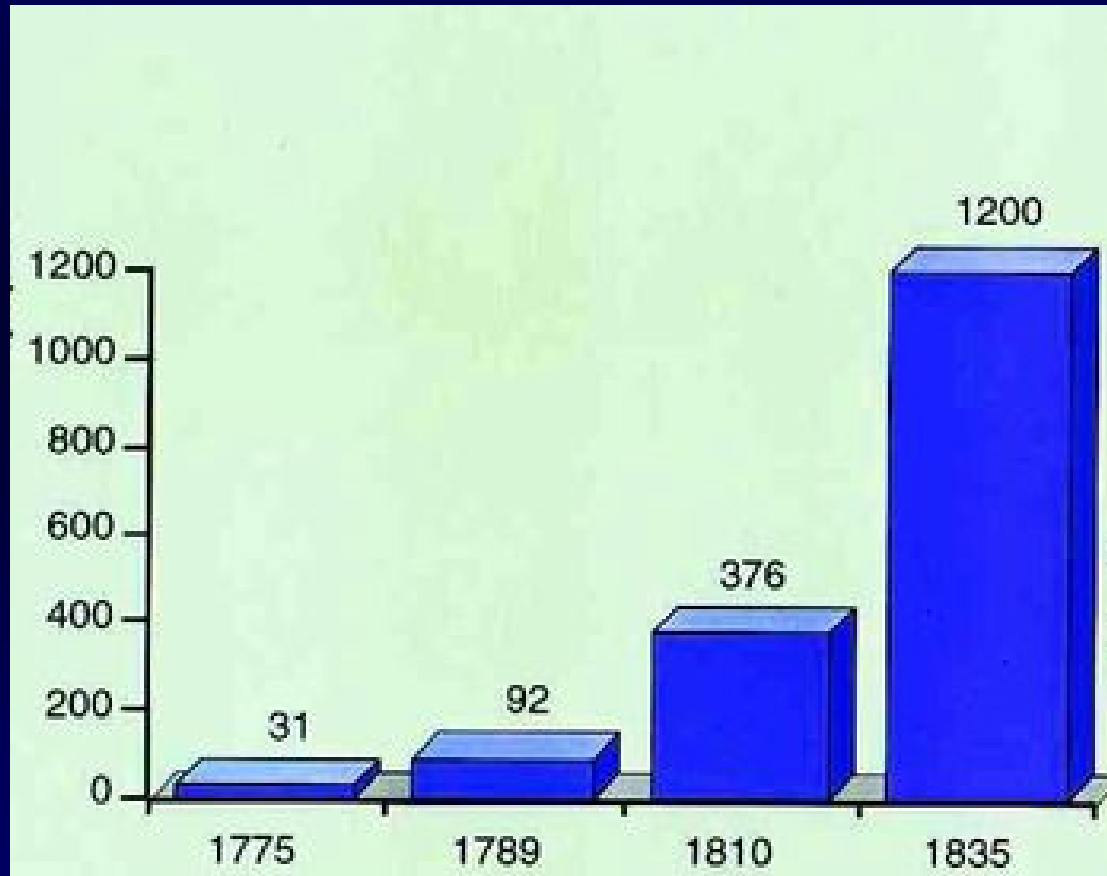
TO THE PUBLIC.

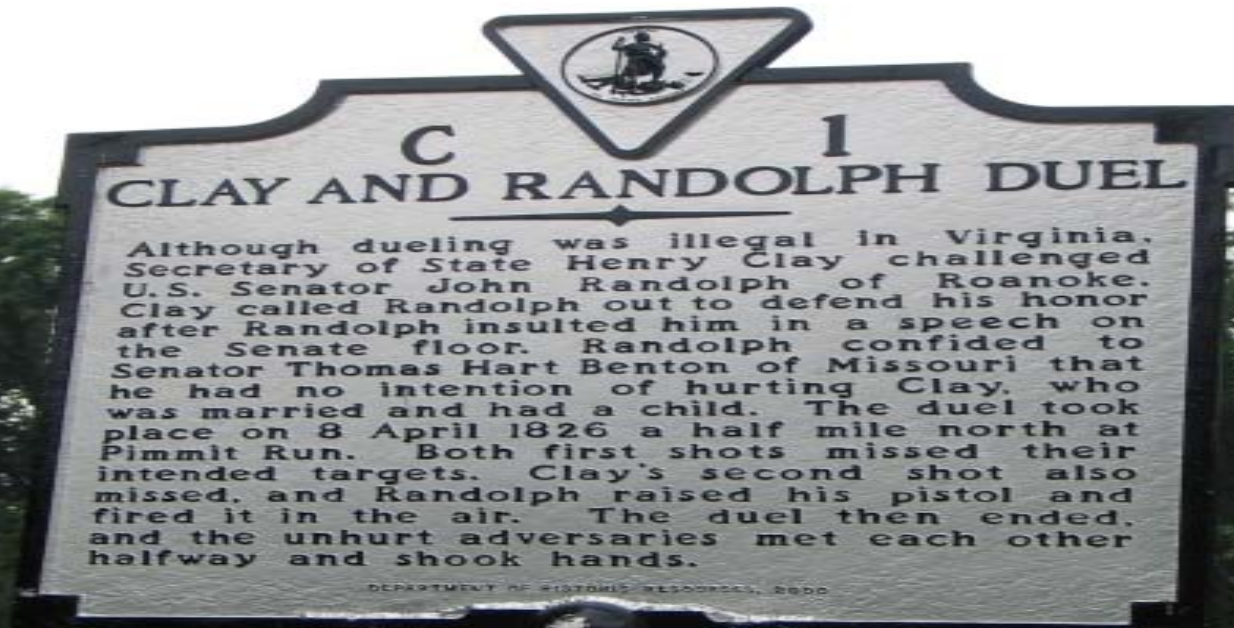
The object of this placard is to inform the Public that Gen. Leigh Read has declined giving to me an apology for the insult offered me at St. Marks, on the 5th inst. That he has also refused to me that satisfaction, which as an honorable man, (refusing to apologise,) he was bound to give. I therefore pronounce him a Coward and a Scoundrel.

WILLIAM TRADEWELL.

Tallahassee, Oct. 26, 1839.

Number of Newspapers in the United States





PEACE FOR PEACE

- I am a peace maker, I am a peace maker, I am a peace maker.
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Some Noteworthy Differences

- Temporal – antebellum and 21st century
- Prearranged vs “random”
- Two vs more people
- Level of empathy (legally and culturally) for those engaged in murder
- Race
- Gender (Emerging Female Violence)

How many Duels were there?

How Common a Practice was It?

Jack K. Williams, *Dueling in the Old South* :

In Mississippi in the 1840s, duels were said to be "as plenty as blackberries."

Fox Butterfield, *All God's Children: The Boskett Family*

An "undercount" yields a rate in Edgefield, SC from 1844-1858 of 18/100,000 per year with a 1991 Louisiana rate of 17.4/100,000

Harriet Martineau, famous authoress and traveler, wrote:

"It is understood that in New Orleans there were fought, in 1834, more duels than there are days in the year, fifteen in one Sunday morning; that in 1835, there were 102 duels fought in that city between the 1st of January and the end of April and no notice is taken of shooting in a quarrel..."

Some Data Sources for Antebellum Violence

- 1880 – H. V. Redfield – used newspaper accounts and calculated in 1878 three Southern States (SC, KY, TX) had rates of 12 - 28/100,000. That year MA had a rate and VT and NH (rural like the South) had only one murder. SC had 128 actual duels. NY's rate was 3-7/100,000 throughout the 1800s.
- Coroner records – e.g. 65 murders in Edgefield, SC (town of 24,000 Blacks and Whites) between 1844-1858oo (rate of 18/100,000) – murders were all whites – not sure the denominator
- The Political Grave Yard – a website listing politicians and their cause of death (including dueling).
- The Militant South (1800-1861) – John Hope Franklin
- Carnival of Blood: Dueling, Lynching, and Murder in South Carolina, (1880-1920) John Hammond Moore
- Notes on Duels and Dueling (written 1855) – Lorenzo Sabine
- Pistols at Ten Paces: The Story of the Code of Honor in America. 1940. William Oliver Stevens.
- Famous American Duels, with Some Account of the Causes that Led up to Them and the Men Engaged. 1966. Seitz.

“Cordy” U.S. Dueling Data Base

- **280 Duels and Challenges**
- **279 Caucasian Male Duels + 1 Caucasian Female Duel (Hall-Hurley)+ Zero Minorities (African-American or Otherwise)**
- **37 participants thus far we have been able to calculate the age (and we are currently working to calculate ages of the remaining duelers based on congressional records and birth certificates)**
- **201 with the year of Duels and Challenges**
- **135 Duels that we know the location thus far (132 in US+ 2 Duels occurred by Americans overseas+ 1 Challenge was sent by an American to a Frenchmen)**

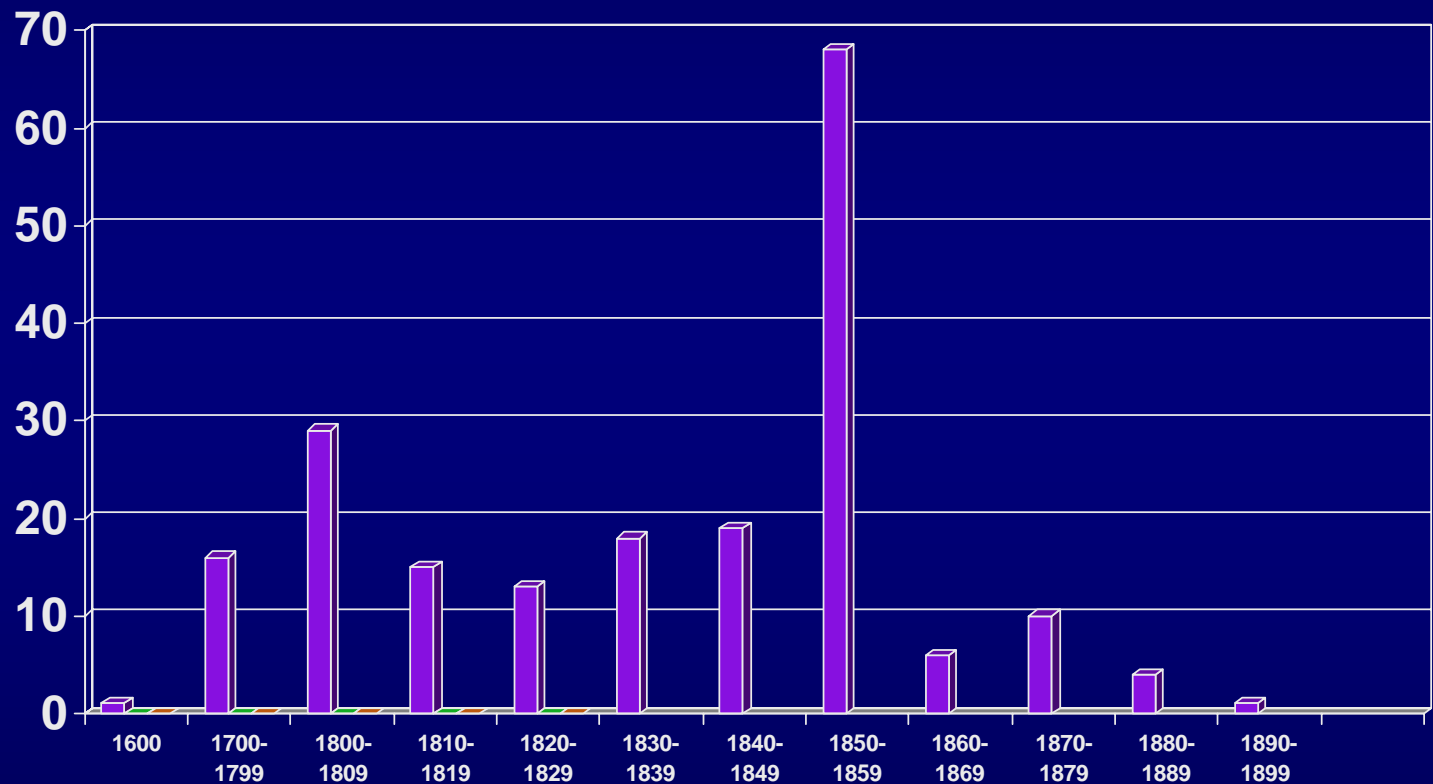
Current plans are to use a “Wikipedia” approach to collecting and accessing information on duels in United States

Database

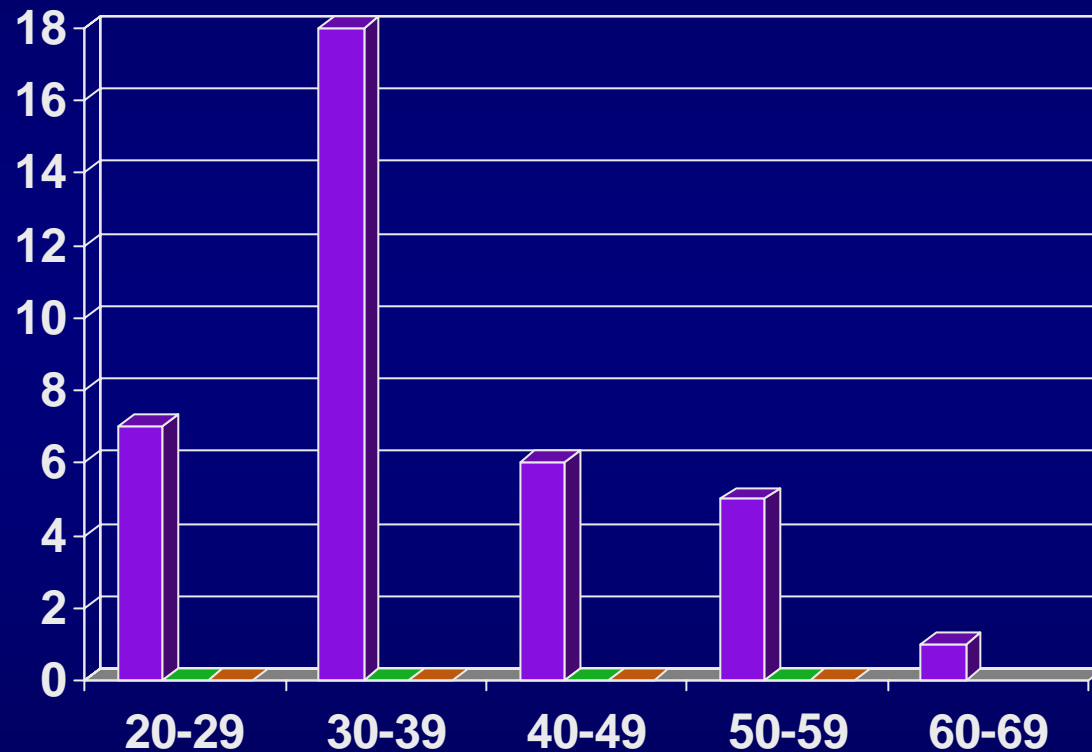
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Number of Duels per Decade



Age of Principals (n=37)



Proposed Research Agenda

- Expand our research team to include anthropologists, historians and journalists
- Complete to the extent possible the information on the 280 duels currently in the Cordy Data Base
- Create a Duels and Challenges Data Base that is a compilation of multiple sources (history books, census data, death certificates, newspapers, dissertations, family records, etc.) – Wikipedia Approach
 - Electronic Data base
 - Selected/qualified users are able to input data
 - Wide spread access
- Understand any implications for contemporary youth violence prevention that are inherent in the successful end of dueling
- Understand the Role of Violence in Society

What Can Be Learned from the End of Dueling ?

- Laws not directly responsible for ending dueling
- Culture and Social norms seemed more important
- Massachusetts – duelist were treated like suicides
- Most effective law might have been that a dueler could not run for office – though the practice of granting amnesty consistently mitigated any impact.
- Role of Wars: Revolutionary War and the Civil War
- Litigation became an honorable way to resolve issues of libel and other offenses

Hamilton's Pros and Cons

Cons

- Wife and Children
- Deeply in debt
- Bore Burr no ill-will
- Illegal in NY
- Condemned by Christianity

Pros

- Pressing necessity not to decline the call
- Cost him political support
- Essential to his ability to be useful in the future

It is a permanent and universal interest of mankind that men should not kill each other; but the particular and momentary interest of a nation or class may in certain cases make homicide excusable or even honorable. Honor is nothing but this particular rule, based on a particular state of society, by means of which a people distributes praise or blame.—

Alexis de Tocqueville

Thank You
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